

THE BLACK RANGE.

DEVOTED TO THE MINING INTERESTS OF THE BLACK RANGE COUNTRY.

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Mining men from every part of the country from the City of Mexico to Fort Benson, Montana, can be found at this house.

P. F. HERLOW, Propr.

NEW MEXICO AT DENVER.
As Seen by the Reporter for the Denver Republican.

The exhibit from New Mexico embraces among other features, two which are unrivalled by anything at the exposition. Its silver glance and horn silver displays are remarkable for size, purity and richness of the specimens, and are of themselves irrefutable evidence of the character and value of at least a portion of the mineral belt of New Mexico. The display of copper ores, native sulphides and oxides is also exceptionally good, and the free milling gold ores, while they do not possess equal attractions for sight-seers, are extremely interesting to mining men. The exhibit comprises ore from three hundred and seventy properties; its weight is fourteen tons, and the gross value very nearly approximates \$16,500. New Mexico is at the same time a very old and very new mining country. It has yielded precious metals for centuries, and yet it is within a comparatively brief period that American methods and enterprise have been directed toward the exploration of the mineral resources of a section which before the United States were a country paid royal tribute to the priests and princes of Europe. The Mina del Tiro, near Santa Fe, from which, three hundred years ago, was taken to Old Mexico, and of which the records are still preserved, is represented by some mineral which is in consequence, invested with more than ordinary interest. The collection of old Aztec mining implements, including hammers, chisels, wedges and other articles, speaks of an age full of mysterious interest to the present generation.

Perhaps in no respect is the result of recent operations in the mining districts more surprisingly shown than in the Lake Valley display. This embraces a large quantity of splendid mineral from the Sierra Grande and Sierra Bella properties, Dona Ana county. The geology of this section has been variously described, and the following statement is upon the authority of a commissioner. The ore which lies in a blanket or contact vein, is covered by limestone strata containing devonian fossils, and rests on a bed of cherty limestone shale belonging to the same age. The upper layer of the vein is an iron cap containing no silver. Below this the chlorite ore is found varying in thickness from one to forty feet. Above and below this mass of horn silver an argenteous sulphide of lead, and antimony occurs in bunches, and on the floor of the vein a reddish brown material called sand carbonates and assaying 65 ounces silver and 50 per cent. lead is found in some quantity. The property is opened by a shaft on the Sierra Grande over 200 feet deep, and a level run to connect the two locations. The horn silver is encountered at a depth of fifty feet from the surface. It is exhibited in massive lumps weighing from ten to 600 pounds. The largest lump is solid chloride, much of which is crystallized, presenting on close inspection a very beautiful appearance, aside from its great intrinsic value, which is given as \$7,000. Many of the smaller pieces are composed entirely of aggregations of horn silver crystals, of violet brown color, and wholly free from gangue or other apparent impurities. Several bars and buttons of silver, made from the ore, are exhibited, and convey to the uninitiated a startling idea of its richness. The antimonial galena presents a bright plumose appearance, and is of very high grade, assaying from 600 to 1,000 ounces per ton. The very limited development upon the four Sierras, of which two only are represented, makes it impossible to estimate the extent and value of the deposit. The mineral area is said to be somewhat less than two miles square, and it will probably require extensive opening to reveal all the ore bodies. If however nothing further were done, the present showing places Lake Valley in the van as a producer of horn silver in ton lots. The richest silver ore at the exposition, however, is from the Solitaire and St. Claire properties. They are very recent discoveries and almost no work has been done upon them, so it is impossible to speak of their extent or value. They are on the Perche, and as yet almost nothing is known of them. The ore, which is from the grass roots, and has considerable vegetable matter sticking to it, speaks for itself. The display consists of 400 pounds and contains over \$4,000 in silver. The mineral is almost a pure argentite, with native silver, which has probably resulted from its decomposition. The display is "im mense," and it is a matter of regret that nothing further can be chronicled concerning it.

The display from Socorro county has

some interesting features, among which is a 450-pound lump of red oxide of copper ore from the Mongolian Monarch, and a pig of black copper found at the mine, and supposed to be from an Aztec furnace. The well-known Torrence mine is also represented by some characteristic mineral. The ore is principally chloride of silver in a barite gangue. It averages from \$35 to \$200 per ton, and is said to occur in large quantities. The mine is developed by adits and is said to have considerable pay in sight. In addition to the predominating minerals some rare vanadium compounds are found in the vein, which is described as a deposit between lime and porphyry.

The Goodenough mine sends some ore valued at \$2,800 per ton. The mineral is silver copper glance and carries sixty-five per cent. copper. The Cooney mine also sends some rich ore, which is principally sulphuret and carbonate of copper.

The display from Grant county, while containing many fine gold and silver ores, is particularly noticeable for the specimens of copper ores and native copper. The gold ores are free milling quartz of average grade, and the silver minerals are of similar character. The veins are said to be usually contacts between lime and porphyry, and to average four and one-half feet in width. Several properties from Elmo Alto and Hanover are represented by good ore belonging to this class. The copper ores are found in fissures and deposits, and are usually oxidized minerals. Native is found in abundance in some of the properties, notably the Santa Rita, Del Cobre, and occasionally copper glance. A fine case of selected specimens of all classes of ores occurring in the county is exhibited, and affords an excellent idea of their variety and character. It contains some unusually fine pieces of velvet copper, and also some specimens of native silver, which are remarkable for perfection of crystalline form. The Santa Rita del Cobre copper mines send plates of native copper, crystallized cuprite, and other associated minerals. The display of native copper is the finest at the exposition.

The general geological formation of the district is a series of sedimentary rock, probably of the carboniferous age, overlaid by metamorphic strata, capped by tertiary trachyte. The principal mines, for there are many in the group, are those contained in the metamorphic rocks, which were at one time an argillaceous sandstone, and have been altered by heat to a quartzite, containing blotches of kaolinized feldspar. It is much fractured and jointed, and its extent and thickness are unknown, as the denudation had not been sufficient to expose more than a few feet in the vicinity of the mines. So far as has been explored, the copper is found distributed through the rocks in plates and scales, filling the original joints and fractures. These shells of copper vary in thickness from that of a sheet of paper to three-fourths of an inch. And except where meteoric agencies have oxidized the metal, it is invariably found in the native state. Above the metamorphic strata is a bed of schist, between which and the quartzite is a bed of hematite, several feet in thickness, and of excellent quality, and carries occasionally a considerable proportion of carbonate of copper. These mines were acquired a century ago by a Spanish officer, and their history is full of interest. They have produced immense quantities of copper and will continue to do so for some time to come.

Bernalillo county is represented by some oxidized copper ore, which presents the peculiar woody structure so common to Nacimiento ores.

Lincoln county is also well represented. The Homestake, White Oaks district, sends some brecciated siliceous ore, carrying free gold and pyrite, valued at from \$1,100 to \$3,800 per ton. The ore mill-runs from \$28 to \$300 per ton. It is a whitish, iron-stained rock, and is characteristic of the free-milling gold ores of that district. The Old Abe is also represented by ore similar in appearance and value. The North Homestake sends a mass of brecciated quartz cemented by glassy quartz coating, with a little talcose and feldspathic material associated in bunches. The value is from \$50 to \$10,000 per ton averaging about the same as the South Homestake. The vein is a fissure about three and a half feet wide, in granite, with a layer of porphyritic material on each side of the pay. The Vera Cruz sends a free milling gold ore, worth \$7 per ton from a pay streak sixty feet wide—dirty, whitish yellow material, of probably siliceous lime composition. The White Mountain ores are represented by specimens from the Christmas and Mogul mines.

From the Gallinas the Tenderfoot

sends a chloride and gray copper ore in a siliceous lime gangue of purple color. The ore is usually high grade, assays returning at the rate of 3,000 ounces silver, per ton.

San Andreas district is represented by ore from the Nora Harrington running one ounce gold, thirteen ounces silver and thirty-eight per cent. copper per ton. The minerals are gray copper, copper glance and oxide, which occur quite solid and pure. Similar ore from the Sucker State is exhibited, which runs forty ounces silver and twenty-five per cent. copper, from the Emma fourteen ounces silver and forty to seventy per cent. copper, and from the Grand Surprise, fifty per cent. copper. Native copper in Hypersthenite is shown from the Graphic mine, White mountains; also a free milling silver ore from the Red Chief. Among the displays in this department is some specular iron ore containing fifty-six per cent. metallic iron, with a little silver and gold associated, some native sulphur, gypsum, cannon coal and a good variety of miscellaneous specimens.

In the display from Dona Ana county are some fine copper ores from the Memphis. The minerals are copper glance and red oxide carrying \$181 silver and \$65 gold per ton. The El Paso sends some oxide and gray carbonate of copper ore which runs 55 per cent. copper, and the Little Buck some solid greenish chloride of silver having a little native silver and black sulphurets associated. Mill-runs have returned from 100 to 900 ounces silver per ton.

The Brown Bear, Jarilla district, sends carbonate from a pay streak said to be 150 feet wide, and the Tough Nut has a highly siliceous ore carrying sulphurets slightly copper stained and running from 155 to 408 ounces silver per ton. Some pieces of micaceous schist, enclosing staurolite crystals, are also exhibited.

In the display from the Black Range which comprises gold and silver minerals the Braxton makes a good showing. The ore is compact white quartz, containing black sulphurets in blotches through it, and is said to run two hundred and seventy ounces gold and five hundred ounces silver to the ton. The Great Republic also exhibits similar ore somewhat stained by iron and copper oxides, and running one hundred ounces gold and four thousand ounces silver to the ton. The Ivanhoe shows the richest ore in the display. It is free gold and black sulphurets with some chalcopryite and malachite, and is said to assay twelve thousand ounces silver and two thousand ounces gold per ton. The Occidental is more modest, and sends some compact, iron-stained quartz carrying a little sulphurets, and running four hundred ounces silver and twenty ounces gold per ton. From Apache district the Wall Street sends a greenish yellow chloride ore, containing native silver, and some argentite. A shipment of forty tons averaged \$450 per ton. The ore from the Highland Chief, which is seven miles distant, is practically the same as also is that of the Way Up and King. The Colossal shows some copper glance and borate in quartz, and containing 964 ounces in silver per ton. The Silver Monument makes a capital display of ore containing 413 ounces silver and 21 per cent. copper per ton. The mineral is borate in quartzose gangue, and is the finest display of that mineral at the exposition. The Livingston Consolidated shows some native copper, red oxide and carbonate, each separate and massive. The oxides and carbonates are said to carry 192 ounces silver, two ounces gold and twenty per cent. copper. From the White Signal tunnel is some copper glance in quartz, and averaging in a three-foot pay streak, fifty-one ounces silver, one ounce gold and three per cent. copper. Some solid chalcopryite and borate in quartz gangue and containing 200 ounces of silver and twenty-one per cent. copper are exhibited from the Dreadnaught. From the Cuchillo Negro district, the Black Knife and Rifle Shot show galena and copper glance carrying 400 ounces silver per ton. From Cook's Peak the Carbonate sends argentiferous galena in honeycombed, ironstained quartz and carrying eighty ounces silver and thirty per cent. lead per ton.

From Santa Fe county, the Avondale placer district sends a piece of surface ore containing galena and gray copper which runs 1,818 ounces silver per ton. The Nick of Time shows galena and other sulphurets running sixty-five ounces of silver per ton. The San Francisco shows copper sulphide and carbonate running twenty-two per cent. metal and containing nearly one ounce gold per ton. The San Pedro sends 200 pounds of iron and copper pyrites, containing in addition to the copper \$22 in gold per ton; some fine massive mal-

achite, and azurite streaked with kaolin, and also some copper matte from the San Pedro furnace containing forty per cent. copper. The Alamo sends coarse-grained galena running ninety-seven ounces silver and fifty per cent. lead, and the Lucky some similar ore containing seventy-five per cent. lead. The Cash Entry also exhibits some chloride ore, heavily stained with copper carbonate, and assaying from 600 to 900 ounces per ton.

From the Cerrillos comes a varied and interesting collection of which it is possible to notice only a few specimens. The Carbonate mine sends a kaolinized mass of material, containing some manganese and averaging forty-three ounces silver. Some assays of choice pieces have yielded at the rate of 2,907 ounces per ton. The Hammond exhibits a free-milling chloride ore averaging \$96 per ton. The State Line sends some surface ore, and also some solid, coarse-grained galena containing fifty-eight ounces silver and from sixty to seventy per cent. lead per ton. The mineral from the Monitor presents an irregular appearance. It consists of small bunches and grains of galena, each entirely separate and very regularly disseminated through the gangue. It averages seventy-six ounces silver per ton. The Roulen is represented by some honeycombed gangue, in which galena is sparingly disseminated. The Sunrise sends some free-milling chloride ore worth \$50 per ton, and the Franklin and Summit some argentiferous galena and gray copper of fair grade. From the Organ mountains, the Copper Duke sends a free-milling gold ore in a quartzose and felsitic gangue, and also some copper ore, which occurs on both sides of the auriferous mineral. One specimen of native gold from this property is the finest in the New Mexico collection.

It is impossible to note in detail the many rare and curious specimens of this exhibit. It contains more of this class than any other at the exposition, and merits close study in consequence. Some of the districts of the territory it has been impossible to notice with sufficient detail in consequence of the incomplete system of labeling and scarcity of information, but with these few exceptions the territory has been well represented by the commissioners in charge.

A Mixed Train.
On some of the western roads they attach a passenger car to a freight train and call it "mixed." It isn't in the order of things that it should travel very rapidly, and sometimes there is considerable growling among the "traffic."

"Are we most there, conductor?" asked a nervous man for the hundredth time. "Remember, my wife is sick and I am anxious."
"We'll get there on time," replied the conductor, stolidly.
Half an hour later the nervous man approached him again. "I guess she's dead, now," said he mournfully, "but I'd give you a little something extra if you could manage to catch up with the funeral. Maybe she won't be so decomposed but what I could recognize her."
The conductor growled at him, and the man subsided.
"Conductor," said he after an hour's silence, "conductor, if the wind isn't dead ahead I wish you would put on some steam. I'd like to see where my wife is buried for a moment before the tombstone tumbles to pieces."
The conductor shook him off and the man relapsed into profound melancholy.
"I say, conductor," said he, after a long pause, "I've got a note coming due in three months. Can't you fix it so as to rattle along a little?"
"If you come near me again I'll knock you down!" snorted the conductor savagely.
The nervous man regarded him sadly and went to his seat. Two hours later the conductor saw him chatting gaily and laughing heartily with a brother victim, and approached him: "Don't feel so badly about your wife's death?"
"Time heals all wounds," sighed the nervous man.
"And you are not so particular about the note?" sneered the conductor.
"Not now. That's all right. Don't worry. I've been figuring up, and I find that the note has outlived since I spoke to you last."

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